

## **Houston Arboretum & Nature Center**

### **Hurricane Ike Habitat Restoration and Removal of Invasive Species**

#### **Project Description**

The Houston Arboretum & Nature Center ("the Arboretum") is a 155 acre nonprofit urban nature sanctuary located on the western edge of Memorial Park in Houston, Texas. The Arboretum contains native plant demonstration gardens, five miles of nature trails, forest, pond, wetland, and meadow habitats. The Arboretum's forested area was severely damaged by Hurricane Ike resulting in over 1,000 trees lost. On a ten acre restoration site within the Arboretum the Houston Arboretum & Nature Center shall clear hurricane debris and invasive species, conduct a forest inventory of existing vegetation in each acre, and then replant the areas of tree loss. Invasive Chinese Privet (*Ligustrum sinensis*) shall also be removed by cutting stems/trunks and treating with approved herbicide to retard subsequent growth. Houston Arboretum & Nature Center shall then conduct the forest inventory of existing vegetation in each acre, followed by replanting with native trees and shrubs at a rate of 100 plants per acre.

Houston Arboretum & Nature Center shall provide sufficient documentation with the Quarterly Reports to substantiate the amount of time each contract laborer spends per week on the Project. Houston Arboretum & Nature Center shall provide TCEQ a copy of the forest inventory done after the debris is cleared, including before and after pictures, in the Final Report.

Houston Arboretum & Nature Center certifies that all expense items in the SEP Estimated Budget have not been nor will be paid for with Hurricane Ike federal disaster funds or private insurance.

#### **Environmental Benefit**

The Project will restore the native wildlife habitat at the Arboretum which is located in a highly urban area. The restored forest will enhance water quality by serving as a filter for nutrients and other heavy metals thereby reducing the amount of pollutants reaching Buffalo Bayou. This project will also contribute to public awareness of environmental matters since the Arboretum hosts nearly 200,000 visitors each year.

#### **Eligible Areas and Counties**

This project may receive contributions from the following:

San Jacinto River Basin and the Gulf Coast Aquifer including Angelina, Aransas, Atascosa, Austin, Bee, Brazoria, Brazos, Brooks, Calhoun, Cameron, Chambers, Colorado, Dewitt, Duval, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Grimes, Hardin, Harris, Hidalgo, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kenedy, Kleberg, Lavaca, Liberty, Live Oak, Matagorda, McMullen, Montgomery, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Polk, Refugio, Sabine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Starr, Trinity, Tyler, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Washington, Webb, Wharton, Willacy and Zapata Counties.

#### **Minimum Contribution Amount**

\$500